

Uniroyal renamed operator for Ammunition Plant

Uniroyal Inc. is once again the operating contractor for the Joliet and Newport, Ind., Army Ammunition Plants.

The company settled an 11-year sex discrimination suit with the federal government Tuesday at a cost of \$5.2 million making it eligible to operate the plants.

The U.S. Labor Department last week notified the company it would no longer be eligible for government contracts as of Dec. 29 because of the discrimination suit dating back to 1968 when Uniroyal closed a

plant at Mishawaka, Ind., laying off 521 women. Some of the women claimed they had more seniority than some of the men retained.

Franklin Forsythe, government representative at the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant, said the government has retracted its bids that went out last Wednesday advertising for a new operating contractor, and the debarment order against Uniroyal has been lifted.

"Everything is back to normal," he said.

The government ban on Uniroyal

was imposed June 29 by the U.S. Labor Department because the contractor reportedly refused to provide information on the discrimination suit at the Indiana plant. It was given until the end of the year for a smooth transition to a new contractor.

Uniroyal agreed to a cash settlement for back pay to more than 750 current and former company employees. It also restored pension benefits and seniority rights to women who lost their jobs.